

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, June 25, 1754,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.¹

WILLIAMSBURG June 25th.. 1754

SIR —

This will (I hope) be deliver'd you by Colo. James Innes, who has my comission to comand in chief on the Expedition, which I dare say will be very agreeable to you, & am in Hopes when all the Forces are collected in a Body, You will be able to turn the Tables on the French and dislodge them from the Fort, & in Time to take full possession of the Ohio River.

As I am affraid of Disputes from the Officers of the Independt. Companies, to prevent that I have orderd. Colo. Innes to Comand in Chief, & You are to be second in Comd. I have seen a breviate comission of Lieutn. Colo. to Capt. Clark,² to be third in Comand, & the same to Capt. Mackay³ to be fourth in Comand on this Expedition; & have desired Colo. Innes to allow their Lieuts. to rank with our Cpts. this is only Feathers in their Caps & to prevent any ill Blood in regard to Rank; as Unanimity is the only step towards success in ye Expedition, & I doubt not all the officers will perceive my meaning in this regulation.

I have directed His Majesty's Present to be sent out, to be given among the Indians as Colo. Innes may think proper with your advice. I have given orders to keep you duely

Library of Congress

supplied with Provisions, & am in great Hopes, when joined in a Body, you will be a proper Match for the French, as I am in hopes you will have a good Number of our friendly Inds. to your Assistance.

I have no more to add but recommending you to the Protection of God, & wishing success to attend all your undertakings I remain in Truth

Sir Ye most hble Servt. ROBT. DINWIDDIE.

P. S. My service to all Ye Brother Officers.

1 The immediate ancestors of Governor Dinwiddie were denizens of Glasgow, and had been, for some generations probably, merchants in honorable esteem, as was his father, Robert Dinwiddie. His mother was also of an old Glasgow family of the same calling. She was Sarah, the daughter of Matthew Cumming, who was Bailie of the city in 1691, 1696, and 1699, and the owner of the lands of Carderock in the contiguous parish of Cadder. The son, Robert Dinwiddie, was born in 1693, at Germiston, a seat purchased by his father in 1690. He was disciplined in the counting-house, and was probably for a time a merchant in Glasgow. He was appointed, December 1, 1727 a Collector of the Customs in the Island of Bermuda, which position he held under successive commissions, until April 11, 1738, when, in acknowledgment of his vigilance and zeal in the discharge of official duty, in the detecting and exposing a long practiced system of fraud in the collection of the Customs of the West India Islands, he received the appointment of "Surveyor-General of Customs of the southern ports of the Continent of America." He was named, as his predecessors had been, a member of the respective councils of the American Colonies. This mandate was recognized by Governor Gooch, of Virginia [in which colony Dinwiddie appears to have fixed his chief residence], but was resisted by the Councillors, who, jealous of interference with their prerogatives, refused to allow him to sit with them, and transmitted a remonstrance to the King for his exclusion. The controversy was decided by the Board of Trade, in May, 1742, advising that the royal purpose should be enforced, in opposition to claims dangerous because they were new. Dinwiddie was specially commissioned, August 17, 1743, with the designation of "Inspector-General," to examine into the duties of the Collector of Customs of the Island of Barbadoes, and in the discharge of this trust exposed to the English government an enormous defalcation in the revenues there. In 1749 he appears to have resided in London as a merchant, engaged in trade with the colonies. He was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, July 20, 1751, and with his wife and two daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, arrived in the colony November 20, following.—BROCK.

2 Captain of an Independent company from New York.

3 Captain of an Independent company of one hundred men from South Carolina.